

# Trauma-Informed Organizations: A Warren/Clinton County Learning Community

Warren and Clinton County organizations are invited to participate in the Trauma-Informed Organization Learning Community which will provide resources, free training and group collaboration. Participating organizations will be aided in modifying their practices to be more cognizant of the trauma their customers may have suffered and are reacting to, as well as the secondary trauma experienced by staff. This opportunity is being funded by Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties.

A trauma-informed approach can be implemented in any type of service setting or organization. This approach is much more global and should be distinguished from trauma-specific treatments which are designed specifically to address the consequences of trauma and to facilitate healing.

Thus, this isn't just for behavioral health organizations! Because of the prevalence, we interact with individuals everyday who have experienced traumatic events. All organizations can become trauma-informed — including domestic violence programs, children's services, court systems, jails, probation offices, job and family services, food pantries, homeless shelters, medical providers, developmental disabilities, schools, etc.

*Please consider sending a representative from your organization to participate in this important endeavor.*

## Logistics

Our 2018 Learning Community Meetings will be held  
on the 2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday of even months

Meeting Time: 9 –11 am

Location\*:

Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties

212 Cook Road, Lebanon, OH



February 12, 2019

April 9, 2019

June 11, 2019

August 13, 2019

October 8, 2019

December 10, 2019



For more information or to be included on the email distribution list, contact  
Patti Ahting, MHRS, [pahting@mhrswcc.org](mailto:pahting@mhrswcc.org) or 513-695-1695  
212 Cook Road, Lebanon, OH 45036

\*If a training event is scheduled to occur during the meeting, the location may change to accommodate more attendees. Please ensure you are on the Trauma Informed Care email distribution list so you get updates on changes.

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## Trauma Matters

In recent years, an increased national focus has been placed on trauma. Once considered an abnormal experience, multiple studies have demonstrated that upwards of 60% of U.S. adults have suffered or witnessed at least one trauma.

Individuals who have survived trauma vary widely in how they experience and express traumatic stress reactions. These reactions vary in severity. They can dramatically influence how individuals respond to the environment, relationships, and interventions or other services. Those same characteristics can also shape the assumptions that trauma victims make about their world, their future, and themselves. Trauma informed services bring to the forefront the belief that trauma can affect an individual's well

-being, including physical and mental health. This reinforces the importance of acquiring trauma-specific knowledge and skills to meet the unique needs of those we serve.

In essence, a trauma-informed organization views traumatic stress reactions as *normal* reactions to *abnormal* situations and recognizes that these reactions have served an adaptive purpose for the traumatized individual. Through the use of various principles, an organization can provide a safe and supportive environment to encourage recovery.

*"Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being." — SAMHSA*

## What do we hope to accomplish?

The Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Developmental Disabilities launched a statewide Trauma-Informed Care Initiative (TIC). Building upon this foundation, we hope to expand and share this information with our local partners.

TIC is an approach that explicitly acknowledges the role trauma plays in people's lives. *TIC means that every part of an organization or program understands the impact of trauma on the individuals they serve.* Adopting a trauma-informed care model promotes a greater sense of safety, security and equality.

Our TIC Initiative is being directed by the six Guiding Principles of Trauma-Informed Care from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). What we know is that this is a "change process" which will require a several month commitment by champions within an organization.

But we also know that the benefit of this focus not only facilitates better customer/client service and outcomes, but also decreases staff stress.

By joining together on this project, we can create meaningful change for individuals in our community.

### Looking for more Information?

SAMHSA  
[http://  
www.samhsa.gov/  
ntic/trauma-  
interventions](http://www.samhsa.gov/ntic/trauma-interventions)

Ohio Department of  
Mental Health &  
Addiction Services  
[http://mha.ohio.gov/  
traumacare](http://mha.ohio.gov/traumacare)

CDC-Adverse Child-  
hood Experiences  
Study  
[http://www.cdc.gov/  
violenceprevention/  
acestudy/](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/)

National Child  
Traumatic Stress  
Network  
[https://  
www.nctsn.org/](https://www.nctsn.org/)